

**EMPIRE VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021**

The Empire Village Planning Commission (PC) held a public hearing and special meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - Collins opened the public hearing on zoning ordinance sections 3.19 sidewalks and 7.08 PUD at 6:00 p.m. No comments were received. **Motion by Lambkin, supported by Webb to adjourn hearing. All in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

Collins called the special meeting to order.

ROLL CALL –Maggie Bacon, John Collins, Bob Chase, John Lambkin, Phil Deering, Chris Webb, Peter Schous and planner Grobbel present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Motion by Bacon, supported by Lambkin to approve November 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

TREASURER’S REPORT – None.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Collins recused himself from voting on any PUD ordinance changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Grobbel reported on various inquiries he has received including one change of use (mercantile) and a variance request (accessory building).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ZO Section 3.19 Sidewalks and Section 7.08 Planned Unit Development (PUD)

**Motion by Bacon, supported by Deering to forward ZO Section 3.19 Sidewalks and Section 7.08 Planned Unit Development (PUD) amendments to Village Council for final approval.** One typo requested to be fixed (tis should be this). **Roll call vote: Bacon, Chase, Lambkin, Deering, Webb, Schous voting aye. Collins abstained. MOTION PASSED.**

Transportation Plan

Bacon is converting all edits into a final draft. This draft will be ready for review in February. Collins prepared language for electric charging stations to be inserted into parking recommendations.

PPARK 7 -Support efforts to install electric vehicle charging stations in designated public parking areas.

Schous provided the following recommendations for eastwardly connections.

**CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE LOCATED EAST OF M22**

Existing Conditions - Currently (Dec2021) we have one pedestrian friendly walkway from the eastwardly neighborhoods connecting to the downtown district. The eastwardly neighborhoods are continuing to see development and an increase of pedestrian traffic should be expected from both north and south of M72.

Proposed Action - The village should continue to explore and implement new pedestrian crosswalks along M22/Lacore Rd connecting the eastwardly residents to Front St., creating a one community feel with safe walkability.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ordinance No. 119 – Mass Gathering Ordinance

Grobbel presented a first draft for planning commission review.

Grobbel stressed the importance of:

1. Solid waste and recycling plans
2. Addressing traffic control specifically for Storm Hill and Lake Michigan Dr.
3. The 45-day application cutoff should be increased and strictly enforced
4. Assigning a person to supervise the event
5. Fee should be increased

Members discussed inviting Matt Ansorge, the Leelanau County Emergency Management Director, to be a part of the discussion. It was also recommended that Trustee Barr be involved as well.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

A resolution will be presented to the Village Council which will authorize Empire Village to participate in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities Program. Planning commission members will be required to attend training sessions.

Members discussed the Village's DNR Nonpoint Source Grant application (South Bar Lake water quality) recently submitted for consideration.

Extension of Fisher Street to M-22

Bacon communicated that the Village has begun the planning process of extending Fisher Street out to M-22. Street Administrator Barr has identified a funding source and is on MDOTs tentative schedule for 2025-26. The project has an estimated construction cost of \$343,000, requiring a 20% match of \$68,750. The extension would help divert heavy truck traffic away from LaCore and residential areas.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**COMMITTEE AND VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS** –Bacon reported that the Village has been awarded the DNR Recreation Passport Grant for Shalda Park improvements to install an asphalt walking path, picnic areas, paved parking, and outdoor exercise equipment. The proposed plan was submitted after consulting with the Disability Network and a local physical therapist, as the grant was scored based on implementing accessibility features.

Bacon also reported that Village Council will bid out reconstruction of Union Street (north of Niagara) and the alley behind Front Street. Two other alleys will be considered for tar and chip maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Schous moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alacia Acton  
Recording Secretary

*These minutes were approved at the February 1, 2022 Village of Empire Planning Commission regular meeting.*